

Summary of Progress

The third quarter covered the period of January 1 to March 31, 2003. In April, quarterly status reports, summarizing watershed work plan progress, were submitted by all 18 grantees. The information received has been reviewed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) staff, and is presented in this report. The grantee reports are listed alphabetically and each is formatted as an individual fact sheet. For each grant, progress on objectives and performance measures are reported. Please refer to the individual grantee fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the major accomplishments of the 18 coordinators thus far are as follows:

- ◆ **Almost \$5.5 million in additional watershed funding has been obtained thus far by the watershed coordinators.** This amount is \$280,000 more than the total that was reported last quarter. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators.
- ◆ **Coordinators are initiating on-the ground projects that were funded by grants obtained during the last cycle.** These projects include, for example, watershed revegetation, stream bank stabilization and sediment removal, wildlife pond installations, noxious weed monitoring and removal, fish ladder installations, gravel replacement for fish spawning habitats, and water-quality monitoring. Refer to the individual grantee fact sheets for details.
- ◆ **Many landowner-based workshops have been held and more are being planned.** Topics have included ranch/farm water-quality planning and monitoring, stewardship orientation and training, insectary hedgerow installation, irrigation monitoring, non-point source pollution reduction, and water conservation strategies.
- ◆ **Six new watershed stewardship/working groups are becoming established** and existing groups are continuing to meet on a regular basis to plan watershed improvement strategies and activities.

These results show how instrumental watershed coordinators are for the success of watershed improvements. As the grant program has progressed, it has become increasingly apparent that watershed coordinators are vital for facilitating collaboration, building consensus, increasing stakeholder awareness, obtaining project funding, and initiating watershed improvement projects. Coordinators are building the watershed management infrastructure necessary for healthy watersheds statewide.

Cachuma Resource Conservation District

Santa Maria River and Cuyama River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$68,500

Match Provided: \$45,179

Watershed Coordinator: Thomas Lockhart

Watershed Goal: To reduce off-site transport of water, sediment, and nutrients from farms and ranches.



Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assist three existing watershed working groups in implementing their watershed plans.

- The Oso Flaco watershed work group conducted a meeting out in the field. During the meeting, a draft farm plan was presented to the group. All 10 of the farmers agreed to prepare farm plans and four of the plans are already being worked on. These individual plans will be used to prepare an aggregate plan for the whole watershed.
- An engineering survey was conducted at the site of a “low-water crossing,” where a bridge is proposed as a replacement for the crossing.
- A field presentation was made to a Cal Poly Science class on the soil nitrate quick test, plant tissue testing, and precision irrigation in vegetables.
- Irrigation drainage water was sampled in 8 locations. Samples were measured for nitrate in the lab, and field parameters for nitrate, sediment, pH, and EC were taken. A portable sampling unit was setup to take 24 automated samples in one of the 8 sampling locations.
- A total of 9 irrigation evaluations were conducted, including 3 turf-grass, 2 avocado orchards, a drip irrigated vegetable, and 2 vineyards.
- The soil nitrate quick test was demonstrated to 8 farmers on two different farms.



*Micro-irrigation presentation to
Cal Poly Crop Science Class*

Performance Measure 1.1: Produce three watershed plans which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

- The Oso Flaco Creek Watershed Plan has begun. The San Antonio Creek plan is almost complete and the Carpinteria Creek plan is just getting started.

Performance Measure 1.2: Decrease nitrate concentration by 20% in Oso Flaco Creek.

- The soil nitrate quick test was demonstrated to 8 farmers on two different farms this quarter.

Performance Measure 1.3: Reduce sediment delivery into San Antonio Creek by 30%.

- The plan is almost complete and if implemented as proposed, sediment delivery would be reduced by 30%.

Performance Measure 1.4: Improve steelhead passage in Carpinteria Creek by 50%.

- A low water crossing is proposed to be removed that would allow steelhead to access an upper portion of the stream.

Objective 2: Oversee the start-up of two additional watershed working groups.

- The preliminary erosion control plan was produced for the Bradley Ranch subwatershed of the Santa Maria River.
- Proposals were written for preparing erosion control plans in Arroyo Hondo Creek and Gaviota Creek Watersheds.
- Conducted nine mobile irrigation lab evaluations.



Demonstrating the soil nitrate quick test to the Oso Flaco Watershed Working Group

Performance Measure 2.1: Draft two watershed plans, which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

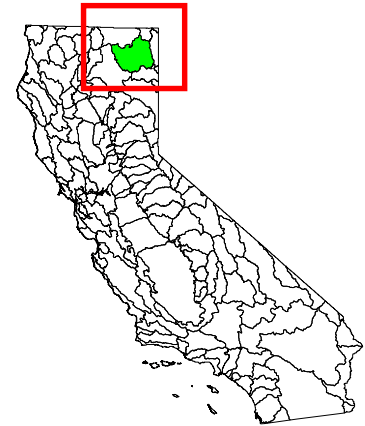
- San Jose Creek and Bradley Ranch sub-watersheds will be new watersheds that have plans prepared during this project.

Performance Measure 2.2: Improve conservation of water quantity and quality in two new watersheds by 20%.

- A preliminary erosion control plan was presented to the landowners in the Bradley Ranch sub-watershed.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Upper Pit River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,400

Match Provided: \$18,100

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$585,000

Watershed Coordinator: Cliff Harvey

Watershed Goals, Objectives, and Progress

Goal 1: Contribute to watershed-wide assessment.

Objective 1: Support Pit River Watershed Alliance assessment project.

- Attended regularly scheduled Pit River Watershed Alliance (Alliance) meetings and provided contractors with information necessary for the assessment.

Performance Measure: Documentation of district input to assessment drafts, participation in 9 team meetings.

- Since the first quarter the Coordinator has attended five team meetings.

Objective 2: Contribute to watershed wide GIS database

- Consolidated data from current and past watershed projects.

Performance Measure: Annual GIS Update, documentation of updates to SARE and ICE

Goal 2: Continue implementation of the CMRCD Monitoring Plan.

Objective 1: Collect, document and disseminate complete monitoring site data set for target parameters and locations.

- Winter weather prohibited data collection during this quarter.

Performance Measure: Establish 10 monitoring sites, 50 independent photo points, and collect macroinvertebrate data for 10 tributaries.

Goal 3: Continued implementation of demonstration watershed restoration projects.

Objective 1: Initiate Proposition 13 Projects.

- The Prop. 13 Phase I contract has been approved and started on February 1, 2003. A new project coordinator has been hired to administer the projects funded through this grant.

Performance Measure: Completed signed Prop. 13 contract.



Coordinators Cliff Harvey (left) and James Rickert, working on the Godfrey Tract Project, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas

- This performance measure was met when the Prop. 13 contract was signed and work commenced on 2-1-2003.

Objective 2: Initiate Cantara Foundation Projects

- Worked towards securing the necessary permits for two of the projects funded through the Cantara Foundation grant.
- Supervised the installation of a sediment sampling device in Witcher Creek that will document pre-project conditions.
- The ground layout for the Gleason Creek Fencing project is nearly complete. Project construction will begin in the summer.
- Conducted site visits with four landowners to discuss project implementation at the Bushey Ranch, Heard Ranch, Valena Ranch and DJ Ranch.

Performance Measure: Approved and signed contract; submitted permit applications and initial CEQA/NEPA documentation; draft project design.

Objective 3: Develop New Project Proposals

- Conducted site visits to the Pit River Tribe on the X-L Ranch to discuss potential projects and funding opportunities.
- Began data collection and site assessment for the Clark Property project.
- New project proposals under development include: treatment of bank erosion on the North Fork Pit River at the Schluter Ranch, treatment of an incised spring fed channel to improve wetland function at the Ahrens property, treatment of a channelized reach of the South Fork Pit River at Likley Land and Livestock, treatment of a channelized reach with the rehabilitation of old meander channels at the Silvestri Place.

Performance Measure: Production of approved project design alternatives for all projects.

Goal 4: Ensure coordination of District programs with other watershed stakeholders.

Objective 1: Continue and improve coordination of UPRWEPP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

- Disseminated the Winter 2003 TAC Newsletter to over 150 stakeholders.
- Attended two Pit River Watershed Alliance meetings and two Modoc Noxious Weed Working Group meetings to provide assistance and ensure collaboration between all working groups within the watershed.

Performance Measure: Minutes of 3 TAC meetings. Complete 6 TAC newsletters. Maintain TAC website link. Attend 8 meetings of PRWA, MNWWG, documentation of cooperation with PRWA coordinator.

- The coordinator has conducted 2 TAC meetings, completed 2 TAC newsletters, attended 5 Alliance meetings, and 4 Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group meetings.

Goal 5: Ensure that all stakeholders are aware of and informed about watershed concepts and issues.

Objective 1: Link all CMRCD/UPRWEPP monitoring, assessment, and restoration projects to the CMRCD River Center education & outreach programs.

- The coordinator has worked with River Center staff to develop new interpretive displays. The River Center officially opened its doors on May 1st, 2003. The coordinator will use this facility to teach the entire community about watershed stewardship.
- The coordinator has assisted River Center staff in developing and facilitating opportunities for the community to learn more about the watershed.

Performance Measure: Facilitate preparation of 6 CRWQMPs; assist in three K-12 watershed programs; assist in 6 outreach events; coordinate stream restoration workshop; complete 54 site visits.

- The coordinator has assisted with developing an educational program for high school students, conducted one watershed restoration workshop, assisted in two outreach events and conducted 18 site visits.



Goal 6: Ensure continuing implementation of CMRCD/UPRWEPP vision and goals.

Objective 1: Obtain funding for new and continuing projects and programs.

Pit River, Modoc County

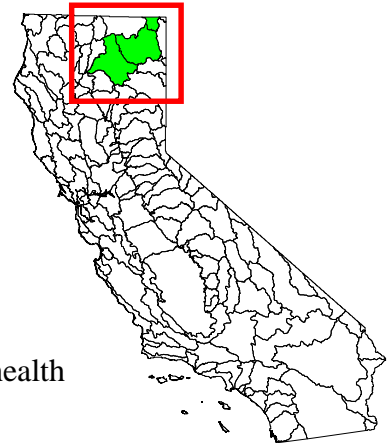
- The Coordinator will submit a package of proposals for the combined Request for Concept Proposals from CALFED, SWRCB and the EPA that is due May 9.

Performance Measure: Preparation and submission of competitive grant proposals, and development of viable Scope of Work/contract documents for awarded grants.

- The coordinator has submitted a total of four grant applications, finalized a Prop. 13 scope of work, finalized a Cantara Foundation scope of work and started work on a Prop. 13 phase II scope of work.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Goose Lake, Upper & Lower Pit River Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$62,500

Match Provided: \$23,400

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$113,000

Watershed Coordinator: James Rickert

Watershed Goal: Achieve long-term economic and environmental health through active community participation.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Improve communication among partners and stakeholders.

- Conducted two community information presentations about the goals of the Pit River Watershed Alliance. The High Mountain Hay Growers and the Modoc County Noxious Weed Group both signed the PRWA Memorandum of Understanding as a result of the presentations.
- The coordinator identified six potential funding sources to fund website improvements. Proposals were sent to all six sources in an attempt to secure funding.
- Distributed 260 Pit River Watershed Alliance brochures to introduce the Alliance to stakeholders within the watershed.
- Held meetings with several groups in the watershed to discuss overlapping interests and to explore possibilities for collaborative work. The Coordinator met with groups such as the Pit River Tribe, the Northeastern California Watershed Association, and several private landowners.



Godfrey Tract Project, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas

Performance Measure: Obtain and secure a total of 35 signatories on the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Since the first quarter, the coordinator has obtained three new signatories including the High Mountain Hay Growers, the Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group, and the Fall River Wild Rice Growers Cooperative.

Objective 2: Seek funding for Pit River Watershed Alliance to implement priority projects.

- Submitted six grant proposals to obtain funding for Website upgrades. A total of \$61,000 was requested from Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Mead Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, Redding Rancheria Foundation, The Sonoran Institute Resources for Community Collaboration Program, and the Town Creek Foundation. The coordinator also helped the Alliance Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee develop a \$95,000

proposal for a water quality monitoring coordinator. This proposal was submitted to DWR and awarded to the North Cal Neva RC&D.

Performance Measure: Assist writing five funding proposals for priority projects in cooperation with Pit River Watershed Alliance stakeholders.

- The coordinator has submitted seven proposals since the first quarter.

Objective 3: Coordinate Pit River Watershed Alliance projects.

- Assisted the Alliance Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee in analyzing data collected during monitoring conducted last year.
- The Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee developed a \$95,000 proposal to fund a Pit River Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator. The proposal was sent to DWR and subsequently funded.
- Assisted Vestra Resources in developing the Pit River Watershed Assessment. The Watershed Assessment is scheduled to be completed in Dec. 2003.



Rose creek site visit (future restoration site), Lookout, CA

Performance Measure: Three projects are identified.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

The Coordinator applied for a total of \$61,000 from Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Mead Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, Redding Rancheria Foundation, The Sonoran Institute Resources for Community Collaboration Program, and the Town Creek Foundation. The coordinator also helped the Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee develop a \$95,000 proposal that was funded by DWR.

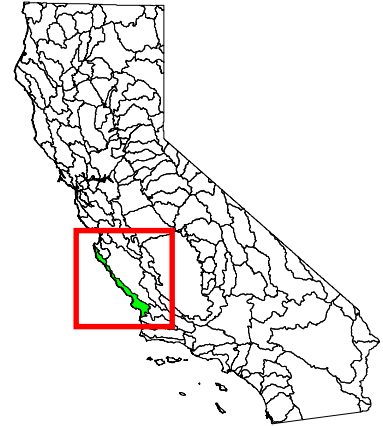
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District Central Coastal Watershed

Amount Funded: \$60,024

Match Provided: \$80,459

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$500,000

Watershed Coordinator: Malcolm McEwen



Watershed Goal: Improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality in watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- Met with several landowners as a result of contacts obtained from the Farm Bureau, the Zone 1/1A Flood Control District Advisory Committee and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.
- Assisted a landowner in Morro Bay watershed by providing funding through Project Clearwater for partial completion of a fencing and water development project on a 320 acre ranch on San Luisito Creek.
- Submitted a proposal to the California Department of Water Resources requesting funds to acquire wetland conservation easements on properties in a floodplain at the base of Los Osos Creek.
- Completed the Morro Bay Watershed Steelhead Restoration Plan. This plan will make steelhead restoration efforts more effective, and will help attract funding for this purpose.
- Assisted the District in their application to the NRCS to enroll 23 acres of converted wetland to the Wetland Reserve Program.
- Coordinated efforts by a radio-tower site lessee in removing a radio tower support structure and restoring native vegetation on property owned by the District.



Coordinator Malcolm McEwen (left) congratulates Dan Guthrie in front of his construction site, which was selected as the site with the best erosion control measures.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in Cooperative Extension short courses (# over two courses). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10). Number of growers who receive irrigation system evaluations. Amount of funding obtained for funding conservation practices (funding for 10 practices).

- Contacted 15 landowners.
- Installed four conservation practices to date.
- Obtained one permit so far but working to develop a coordinated permitting program.

Objective 2: Support education and outreach to landowners and agency staff.

- Organized an event, the 2-year anniversary of the levee breach, to recognize examples of good erosion control on construction sites in Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, and Grover Beach, and to highlight the connection between erosion and flood control.
- Organized University of California Cooperative Extension and NRCS staff to present a workshop and field tour concerning agricultural conservation planning at the Salmonid Restoration Federation/Urban Streams conference.

Performance Measure: Number of demonstration sites developed (2). Number of landowners who document or otherwise share the benefits of conservation practices (6). Number of people who participate in farm tours or field days (# over 3 tours). Number of regulatory referrals to the NRCS or the district (12).

- Established three demonstration projects on construction sites in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach.
- Conducted a land owner tour and provided NRCS with a regulatory referral in Nipomo.

Objective 3: Facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among governmental agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.

- Met with several key landowners in the watershed to discuss potential projects to submit to the State Coastal Conservancy to preserve agriculture in the Arroyo Grande Valley.
- Submitted a grant proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for \$160,000 to expand the flood control study on the lower Arroyo Grande Creek levee project.
- Assisted the Land Conservancy of SLO County in resolving details of a contract with DWR for funding a 2.5 acre restoration project on the banks of Nipomo Creek.



*An "Agriculture and Salmonids"
Field Conference
discussion on how intensively
managed grazing systems benefit
water quality and steelhead*

Performance Measure: Number of watershed stewardship groups that form through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3). Number of RCD board members who participate in watershed stewardship groups (3). Number of landowners who participate in watershed stewardship groups (6). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship groups through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3 proposals submitted).

- Conducted two education events.
- Working on four farm/ranch plans.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

Submitted a proposal to the Coastal Conservancy for \$160,000 for a flood control study.

East Merced Resource Conservation District

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus (Lower Merced portion) & Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds

Amount Funded: \$59,600

Match Provided: \$14,900

Watershed Coordinator: Teri Murrison



Watershed Goal: Preserve or enhance the Merced River and floodplain environment.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Metamorphosis of Merced River Stakeholders Group from a single project focus to a watershed group.

- Planned and conducted two meetings (January and February) of the Merced River Stakeholders Group.
- Group adopted a mission statement, goals, and objectives.
- Attended California Watershed Education Day in Sacramento. Met with legislators and staff to acquaint them with the Lower Merced River.
- Attended Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interest (MAGPI) and Merced Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel meetings.
- Redesigned and updated Merced River Stakeholders' website.



Members of the Merced River Stakeholders Group collecting macroinvertebrates at a Water Quality Monitoring Workshop (Lower Merced)

Performance Measures: 1) MRS remains viable watershed group with average active participation of 35 stakeholders; 2) Provide staffing for 12 monthly meetings; 3) Adopt mission, goals and objectives by June 2003; 4) Participation of at least 15 MRS members at each of two field days with implementation of prescribed practices by five stakeholders after each event; 5) Submit at least three grant applications for continued funding of stakeholder group.

Objective 2: Implement voluntary individual water quality monitoring program on Lower Merced watershed.

- Planned and conducted 2-day workshop on water quality monitoring

- Co-sponsored Streambank Stabilization Workshop (30 attended) and Farmscapes (beneficial hedgerows) Workshop (35 attended).
- Secured 25 water quality testing kits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Kits will be distributed to landowners for use during next quarter.

Performance Measures: 1) Provide 30 stakeholders with water monitoring training and monitoring kits by August 2003. Complete a survey of same 30 stakeholders by October 2003 to verify that at least 10 have adopted BMPs for water quality by comparing monitoring results; 2) Submit at least one grant application to fund a school-based water quality monitoring project by May 2003.

Objective 3: Administer watershed coordinator grant program.

- Monitored potential funding programs for future projects.
- Attended DOC/Legacy Project Workshop in Modesto.

Performance Measures: 1) Prepare and submit quarterly reports to DOC; 2) Attend CARCD annual meeting; 3) Submit at least one grant application for continued funding of watershed coordinator position.



Erick Burris with the SWRCB's Clean Water Team provides Merced River Stakeholders training on how to monitor for chemicals in the Lower Merced River

East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District

**Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus
& Panoche-San Luis Reservoir Watershed**



Amount Funded: \$44,986

Match Provided: \$28,425

Additional Funding Obtained: \$475,000

Watershed Coordinator: Norman Crow

Watershed Goal: To improve water use efficiency, water quality, riparian health and ecosystem quality in the watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Participated in a NRCS/CALFED meeting regarding the Water Use Efficiency grant program. Provided input on grower needs.
- Attended five board meetings and prepared monthly summary reports.
- Assisted Stanislaus County in its effort to lease property from the U.S. Navy. Secured an agreement with West Stanislaus RCD to relocate its office to the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility. The county will pay the district to manage the natural resources on the lease property.

Performance Measure: Number of new stakeholders attending annual and workshop meetings (22). Number of referrals seeking information or assistance from NRCS or the RCDs.

Objective 2: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- Assisted eight growers obtain funding and technical assistance through EQIP funding. New conservation practices adopted by the growers include improving water use efficiency, installing soil erosion measures and implementing habitat protection.
- Two Irrigation Scheduling workshops are planned for May. Information on the basics of irrigation scheduling and the advantages to using a soil moisture measurement and irrigation scheduling tool will be shared with workshop participants.
- To date, 17 growers are participating in the TIM program.
- Maintained working status of CIMIS station.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in irrigation scheduling short course (1 workshop). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10 practices). Number of growers who participate in irrigation evaluations (18). Amount of funding

obtained for funding conservation practices and future funding of Total Irrigation Management (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 3: Assisting West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Contacted seven growers along Orestimba Creek and worked with them to implement management practices to reduce irrigation induced runoff into Orestimba Creek.
- Assisting in the restoration effort of three conservation easements held by West Stanislaus Resource Conservation District. Arranged for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to contract with the Agriculture Department of Orestimba High School to grow native plants and trees to outplant on the easements in the spring of 2004.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners who form into a watershed stewardship group (8 land-owners). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship group (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 4: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Coordinated information on needed monitoring sites along the San Joaquin River. Worked with San Joaquin River Group Authority and the Delta-San Luis Water Authority in determining needed sites.

Performance Measure: Number of monitoring sites developed (15). Establish database for flow and salinity of drains into the San Joaquin River.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

<u>Proposal Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
Demonstrate an achievable reduction of chlorophyrifos loading in drainage water discharging from the tributary watershed of Orestimba and Del Puerto Creeks into the San Joaquin River	\$717,020 requested from State Water Resources Control Board	RFP submitted to SWRCB for review and selection process